

In th claims:

Please AMEND the claims as follows:

1. (Five Times Amended) An electrode assembly for an electrochemical cell of the type comprising an elongated anode assembly and an elongated cathode assembly wound unidirectionally in side-by-side relation into a coil comprising a plurality of alternating anode and cathode assembly layers built up from an innermost layer through inner layers to an outermost layer such that the outermost layer of the coil comprises an end segment of one of the anode assembly or the cathode assembly wherein:

(a) the anode assembly comprises:

- (1) an anode comprising an elongated strip of alkali metal and an anode current collector having at least a first connector tab disposed to extend away from a side edge thereof, the elongated strip of alkali metal having a first length and the anode current collector having a second length, the second length of the anode current collector being shorter than the first length of the elongated strip of alkali metal; and
- (2) a first layer of separator material shaped to form a pocket around the anode to encase the anode therein and through which the first connector tab extends; and

(b ) the cathode assembly comprises:

- (1) a cathode comprising an elongated cathode current collector having a second connector tab disposed to extend away from a side edge thereof, the cathode current collector having a third length, and a cathode material bonded to the cathode current collector; and
- (2) a second layer of separator material shaped to form a pocket around the cathode to encase the cathode therein and through which the first connector tab extends, whereby two layers of separator material separate the anode and cathode when wound into the coil of the electrode assembly.

10. (Five Times Amended) An electrode assembly for an electrochemical cell of the type comprising an elongated anode assembly and an elongated cathode assembly wound unidirectionally in side-by-side relation into a coil comprising a plurality of alternating anode and cathode assembly layers built up from an innermost layer through inner layers to an outermost layer such that outermost layer of the coil comprises an end segment of the anode assembly, wherein.

(a) the anode assembly comprises:

- (1) an anode comprising an elongated strip of alkali metal and an anode current collector having at least a first connector tab disposed to extend away from a side edge thereof, the elongated strip of alkali metal having a first length, the anode current collector having a second length shorter than the first length, the anode current collector being disposed against an end segment of the elongated strip of alkali metal corresponding to an end segment of the anode assembly that when wound into the coil disposes at least a portion of the anode current collector in the outermost layer of the coil; and
- (2) a first layer of separator material shaped to form a pocket around the anode to encase the anode therein and through which the first connector tab extends; and

(b) the cathode assembly comprises:

- (1) a cathode comprising an elongated cathode current collector having a second connector tab disposed to extend away from a side edge thereof, the cathode current collector having a third length, the third length shorter than the first length by an amount that enables the end segment of the anode assembly to be wound into the outermost layer of the coil, and a cathode material bonded to the cathode current collector; and